

Today, I stand here just feet away from where President Trump stood on Tuesday and called for unity in this body.

As the President said that night, the only victories that matter in Washington are those that deliver for the American people, and I stand ready to work across the aisle.

Will you join me?

The American people are watching.

THREE IMPORTANT BILLS

(Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my support of three important bills that were considered by the House on Wednesday: H.R. 4044, the Protect and Restore America's Estuaries Act; H.R. 4031, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act; and H.R. 2382, the USPS Fairness Act.

Regrettably, I was unable to cast my votes for this legislation, but had I been able to, I would have voted to pass all three.

I had the pleasure to support Mr. MALINOWSKI's and Mr. JOYCE's bills in the full Transportation and Infrastructure Committee markup and would have gladly voted for them on the House floor as well.

I am particularly disappointed to have missed the vote on the USPS Fairness Act, offered by Chairman DEFAZIO, which I cosponsored. Importantly, it would repeal the 2006 mandate that the U.S. Postal Service prefund future retiree health benefits.

My mom has had a long civil service career at the U.S. Post Office, and so the issue really hits home for me.

No other industry is so unfairly burdened with prefunding benefits in this way, and this bill would help stem the financial losses faced by the USPS. What is more, it would have no effect on the Federal budget.

This legislation is not the end of the discussion for how we protect this vital industry and its workers; it is merely the beginning.

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NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, this morning, my father, my son, my father-in-law, and I attended the National Prayer Breakfast, and joined thousands of other men and women to pray for our country and our President.

This was one of the most humbling experiences of my life and will remain one of the greatest honors that has come with the position of my office.

Prayer is an important part of my Christian faith. It is an act that people

of faith value immensely, and every person should be able to pray, free from persecution, in any institution of the United States.

Additionally, our children should never feel ostracized for displaying their faith and expressing their religious beliefs in our schools across our Nation. It is more important than ever to defend our First Amendment rights and to support efforts made by our President and his administration, and Members of Congress should uphold these values and protect prayer.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, President Trump delivered his State of the Union address in this very Chamber. At one point, he praised the Second Amendment and gun rights, but neglected to even mention the 100 Americans who are killed with guns every day. That number is only part of it.

This week is National Gun Violence Survivors Week and their stories fill out the picture of the reality of guns in America. Over half of adult Americans have or know someone who has experienced gun violence, and about 3 million children experience gun violence every year.

That doesn't even include the millions more students who go to school afraid that they could be the victim of a mass shooting, all because the NRA and the Republican lawmakers they fund refuse to even allow the most commonsense gun legislation, like H.R. 8.

This legislation would ensure that no one could buy a gun without a background check, and a bipartisan majority of Americans agree.

It is time to end the NRA stranglehold, and end gun violence.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF RATIFICATION OF 19TH AMENDMENT IN NEW JERSEY

(Mr. VAN DREW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, February 9, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in New Jersey.

The 19th Amendment was introduced to Congress in 1878. The amendment reads: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

It was not passed by Congress until the House of Representatives passed it in May of 1919 and the Senate passed it in June of 1919. It was then sent to the States for ratification, with New Jersey being the 29th of the 36 States.

I would like to honor the tireless efforts of advocates over history, pioneer's like New Jersey's own, Dr. Alice Paul, who worked for years to get women the right to vote. Her persistence and the persistence of thousands of women before and after her is a true example of how the dedication of these women changed our country and the world for the better. They are true American heroes.

PASS GUN SAFETY BILLS

(Mr. CISNEROS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Speaker, in 1960 my mother's life changed dramatically forever. That was the year her father was murdered through an act of gun violence. She was just 10 years old and my grandmother became a widow with six children left to raise on her own.

This week marks National Gun Violence Survivors Week, where we listen to stories like my mom's and other survivors of gun violence through the country.

But here in Congress, we need to do more than just listen to these stories. We need to act. Last year, the House passed commonsense, bipartisan gun safety legislation, H.R. 8, to expand background checks. This measure is something over 90 percent of the American public wants.

Unfortunately, it has been sitting in the Senate for almost a year and that is unacceptable. Survivors of gun violence, victims of gun violence, and the American people deserve a Congress who will act and pass these gun safety bills. Enough is enough.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

(Mr. CROW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today in solemn observance of National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

Colorado is home, and I am proud to represent the communities of Colorado's Sixth Congressional District, communities that have seen the horrors of gun violence firsthand.

Too many of my constituents bear the scars of gun violence long after their wounds have healed. Some never heal. In honor of their pain, their courage, and their advocacy, we must call on the Senate to pass the commonsense reforms that have already been approved in the House.

We must act now for Julie from Highlands Ranch, Colorado, who was shot when she was 13. Julie was left paralyzed from the chest down, requiring her to walk with canes and braces for the rest of her life. My heart is with Julie for having the courage to speak out in support of commonsense reforms.

We must act now for all survivors like Julie and we must act now for those who no longer have a voice.

CENTRAL VIRGINIAN OF THE WEEK: HANNAH HOWARD

(Ms. SPANBERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the perseverance, strength, and compassion of my constituent, Hannah Howard.

Hannah is a Gordonsville resident, Orange County High School senior, and Blue Ridge Virtual Governor's School student.

On May 8, 2019, Hannah lost her older brother, Devon, to a heroin overdose. In the 9 months since Devon's death, Hannah has shown tremendous courage by studying addiction and educating her peers.

As part of her senior project, Hannah interned at a rehabilitation facility where she learned about the recovery process and engaged with patients to understand substance use disorders.

Following her internship, Hannah not only became certified to administer Narcan herself, but she led her first Narcan certification course to members of the Orange County Youth Council and plans to hold additional trainings in the future.

I admire Hannah's empathy and determination. Through unimaginable loss, she has created a framework within the Orange community to prevent tragedies like the one she and her family have faced.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Hannah for her selflessness and her service to Virginia's Seventh Congressional District.

REMARKS OF SENATOR MITT ROMNEY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I know that Senator ROMNEY does not need to have his words further edified, but there is something about courage and something about his words that struck my heart.

So if I might, in the remarks that Senator ROMNEY made yesterday in his decision to cast a vote for article I, he said, briefly: The Constitution is at the foundation of our Nation. We each take an oath to defend it. Paraphrasing, he said: We arrived at different judgments, and he hoped that we would respect each other's good faith. Senator jurors swore an oath before God.

He said: "I am profoundly religious. My faith is at the heart of who I am." And he knew his decision would be hard.

I thought we lived in a nation that respected the heartfelt decisions and deliberation that Members have to

make. But after his decision and vote there was an onslaught of ugly and nasty comments, individuals calling him weak, #ExpellMitt.

I want to live in a nation that is better than that, that when we have to make hard decisions, we will be respected by all of America.

We all love the Constitution. I want to thank Senator ROMNEY for his profile in courage. There needs to be more of that. He voted the right way. We all did who voted "aye" on article I and article II.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CISNEROS). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4303, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University:

Ms. SHALALA, Florida

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 1903(b), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy:

Mr. THOMPSON, Mississippi

RECOGNIZING 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) is recognized until 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 175th anniversary of Baylor University.

Baylor University, a private Christian university, was chartered by the Republic of Texas on February 1, 1845.

The charter, signed by Republic of Texas President, Anson Jones, was supported by the efforts of Baptist pioneers who sought to establish a Christian university "fully susceptible of enlargement and development to meet the needs of all ages to come."

Originally located in Independence, Texas, Baylor is the oldest, continually operating university in Texas, and was actually formed before Texas became a State.

In 1886, Baylor moved its main campus to Waco, Texas, where it remains today, and combined with Waco University. The new flagship campus of over 1,000 acres along the banks of the Brazos River enabled the university to flourish in its new central Texas home.

Today, Baylor continues to uphold their mission to educate men and women for worldwide leadership and service by integrating academic excellence and Christian commitment within a caring community.

Baylor's diverse student body is comprised of over 18,000 students from all 50 States and from over 90 countries. Both undergraduate and graduate students are propelled toward success by passionate and committed faculty and staff who recognize a calling to address society's greatest challenges.

A nationally ranked and distinctly Christian research university, Baylor is on an ambitious path to become the ninth Research 1, or R1, university in Texas, and the world's preeminent Christian research university.

As Baylor strives to attain the coveted R1 status, it is continually engaging in research at the highest levels as students work to fight disease, investigate environmental challenges, pioneer new technologies, and advance human flourishing.

This university-wide commitment to excellence is evident through classroom teaching and a communal drive toward success. Faculty provide impactful services to Baylor students and support them academically, spiritually, personally, and in their future careers.

□ 2145

Baylor strives to enable each student to achieve at the highest levels of human performance in academics, arts, and athletics, preparing them for worldwide leadership and service.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the recent 175th anniversary of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, I applaud the university's ongoing commitment to Christian values and academic excellence.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the 175 years of legacy and impact of Baylor University.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

RECOGNIZING BEN DOWNS

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ben Downs of Bryan, Texas, as a 2019 inductee into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame.

Ben's radio career began as a childhood fascination. Growing up in Hope, Arkansas, Ben dreamed of hearing his own voice over the radio. As a child, he recalls sitting up in the Hope Field House, pretending to give play-by-plays into an empty soda can.

His dream came true on November 4, 1968, when, at the age of 14, Ben went on the air for the first time. Looking back, Ben says he "wouldn't let a 14-year-old run my station, but fortunately for me, the manager at that radio station did."

By the time he went away to college at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, Ben was a seasoned pro. After 4 years at the station in